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MAN ASSAULTED ON ESPLANADE

PORHCRAWL police are appealing for witnesses to an assault on the Esplanade at 2.20am on Sunday (June 23).

A 31-year-old man was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend with a cut to his head after being assaulted while he was standing outside the Pier Hotel.

A 21-year-old man was arrested at the scene and is on police bail pending further enquiries.

Police ask anyone with information to contact 101 or Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

ABOVE: This was the scene at the Civic Offices in Angel Street, Bridgend, when a flag was raised for Armed Forces Day. On Saturday, June 29, Bridgend will mark the day with a major parade through the town centre. (For details, see page 3).

School blaze: police appeal

POLICE in Maesteg are appealing to the public for information, following a blaze which destroyed children's play equipment at Garth Primary School in Mission Road, at around 7.45pm on Saturday, June 22.

A wooden pirate ship play frame which was installed only two months ago, was set alight and damaged beyond repair.

The blaze also caused damage to gutters on the main school building, said acting local policing Inspector for the Maesteg area, Mathew Lewis.

"This fire has caused irreparable damage to the play equipment at the school which will cost in the region of £10,000 to replace. We are following up a number of lines of enquiry in order to trace those responsible for this crime.

"If anyone has any information, please contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers (free and anonymously) on 0800 555 111," he urged.

Five years jail for married man who 'groomed' 15-year- old Bridgend girl

A BRIDGEND teenager who was sexually groomed by a man old enough to be her father, was taken by him to a four-star hotel in the centre of Cardiff where the pair twice had sex, writes **AJ SICLU-NA**.

At Cardiff Crown Court, 40-year-old Robert Lankshear, married with two children, who lived in Ascot, was jailed for five years.

He admitted 25 charges involving meeting a child following sexual grooming, sexual activity with a child, making indecent photographs of children, and possessing extreme pornographic images.

He was also ordered to register as a sex offender for life, and was banned from working with children.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said no-one would know the effect of what occurred on the child, she was likely to have difficulties coming to

terms with losing her virginity in such a "grubby way".

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said the 15-year-old girl began having contact with the defendant through a Blackberry message system when she was 14.

They would talk about his work in London and other matters. He told her he was 29, and they began to have conversations of a sexual nature, and that he could not wait to meet her.

She told him she was 15.

"It culminated in the meeting in Cardiff in April. She caught a train from Bridgend and they met at Cardiff Central Station.

"They then walked to the Mercure Hotel in Newport Road, where he had reserved a room."

In the room, said Mr Trigg, they watched TV and then went to a sauna and to a jacuzzi, where he became familiar with her, which caused her to become nervous.

Mr Trigg said that in the room, he later said: "Do you want to?" and

she said she did.

They then had full sex twice. She later said she knew it was not right and felt nervous.

She later caught the train back to Bridgend

and Lankshear returned home. She realised, said Mr Trigg, that she had been used, confided about the matter to friends, and it was later reported to the police.

They contacted the defendant, and when they searched his home, they found pornographic images of children.

(CONTINUED
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'New boy' wins the photo society's trophy competition



'What a catch'



'Guardians of the tree'

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual Clyne Jones Memorial Trophy competition on June 20 at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel in Porthcawl.

The competition was for digital projected images and every member could enter up to three images each on any subject. The winner was the photographer who attained the highest aggregate score for their two best scoring images.

David Lingham FRPS judged the competition, and not only awarded the marks, but also provided an excellent critique on each image.



Geoff Baker (on right) with judge David Lingham

First place went to recent new member, Geoff Baker, who received an excellent 38 marks out of a possible 40 with 'Guardians of the tree' and 'What a catch'; second place went to John Corcoran for 'Waiting' and 'Storm Clouds' and third place went to Paul Rosser for

'Female Peregrine shaking her plumage' and 'Kestrel in the woods'.

Congratulations to Geoff on winning the competition and a big 'thank you' to everyone who took part, for making it such an interesting, entertaining and fun evening.

GE

Take a Sunday ramble in your local park...

PARK rangers have planned two free Sunday events to show off the beauty of Bryngarw Country Park and Bedford Park.

A spokesperson said: "Join us on a guided ranger's ramble to explore the wonderful scenery and discover interesting features such as secluded meadows, gardens and many of the park's native plants and trees, including meadow orchids.

"The rangers will discuss the biodiversity value of many of the wild flowers and trees that you encounter

along the way."

Bryngarw Country Park in Brynmynyn, has its ramble on Sunday, June 30 at 11am-12.30pm, admission is free, car park £2.50, meeting at the visitor centre.

The Bryngarw Country Park event will be accompanied by a BSL interpreter, who will translate the ranger's commentary into BSL accredited sign language.

Bedford Park, Cefn Cribwr, has its ramble on Sunday, July 7, 11am-12.30pm. Free admission and car park., meet in the car park.

Cantorion Coety's first annual concert voted great success

CANTORION Coety's first annual concert, at Tabernacl, Derwen Road, Bridgend, on June 21, was hailed as a "very successful event" by choir chairman Gareth Brace.

Musical director, Eira Paskin, was equally delighted with the performances of all who took part and the response from the large audience underlined their appreciation of the musi-

cal performances.

Concert compere, John Elfed Jones, of Coity, congratulated the performers on having achieved an excellent standard, both with their choice of programme and the quality of the singing.

The merit of a task "well done" applied to all; soloists Megan Eleri Griffith and Rhidian Jenkins, the 50-strong junior choir of Ysgol Bro Ogrw under the direction of Kerry Anne O'Connell, and, finally, the host choir Cantorion

Coety under the leadership of conductor Eira Paskin, and accompanist Steven Burgess.

This bodes well for the coming year, with so much encouragement from those who attended the concert; Cantorion Coety will no doubt be planning further concerts in the future.

Their thanks go to all those who helped and supported their efforts to make their first annual concert so successful, those too numerous to mention.

Alun Roberts Jones

AM's praise for new baby 'app'

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies has welcomed news that a special phone app has been created by the British Red Cross, with vital first aid tips for parents and the carers of young babies.

Mrs Davies commended the organisation for using this most up-to-date means of engaging with young parents.

She said: "The free app can be easily downloaded to mobile phones. It is packed with videos, animations and tips about how to deal with emergencies with young babies. It contains simple advice and the skills that take just minutes to learn.

"I would urge every parent to download this and take the time to learn these vital skills which are literally life saving. "There is also a hospital finder, which could

be crucial if an emergency occurs when you are in a strange area."

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, went on: "I also support the British Heart Foundation's campaign to teach emergency life saving skills and I have been pressing the Education Minister to include first aid in the compulsory school curriculum but with no success, despite the fact that AMs from all parties also support it.

"We have all seen the Winnie Jones adverts on TV which show how to do resuscitation to the tune of 'Staying Alive' and I was reading in the paper only last week about a young woman who saved someone's life by doing just that.

"She said she was humming the tune in her head to get into the right rhythm for chest compressions so these things do work."

Boost for local charity from housebuilder



ABOVE: Redrow Homes South Wales' managing director, Stuart Rowlands, and sales director, Debby Pavitt, presenting the cheque to Healing the Wounds co-founders Kevin and Carol Richards, and development director, Mal Emmerson.

REDROW Homes South Wales recently presented a cheque for £4,800 to the local Armed Forces charity, Healing the Wounds.

The cheque was presented to Kevin and Carol Richards, co-founders of Healing the Wounds, by Stuart Rowlands, managing director of Redrow Homes south Wales, and will cover one year's rental cost of the charity's accommodation in Porthcawl.

Based in Bridgend, Healing the Wounds provides a number of services to Welsh Armed Forces veterans and their families, aiding recovery from post traumatic stress disorder and

increasing quality of life.

Louise Pottinger, company secretary at Redrow Homes south Wales, initially suggested Healing the Wounds as one of the beneficiaries of the Redrow Foundation, and the company has been supporting the charity for over two years.

Amie Phillips, events and fundraising co-ordinator at Healing the Wounds, said: "We are delighted to receive this cheque and are very grateful to Redrow Homes south Wales for entering us as a beneficiary of the Redrow Foundation. We have had fantastic ongoing support from Redrow in the past couple of years, without which we couldn't continue to offer our services as a charity."

MP praises work with inmates at Parc Prison

MADELINE MOON, the MP for the Bridgend, has highlighted the work of staff and volunteers at Parc Prison during a debate in the House of Commons.

She used the debate to talk about the work of 'Parc Supporting Families' and the 'Invisible Walls' programme.

Invisible Walls has three principle aims; to reduce the risk of re-offending, to reduce the risk of inter-generational offending, and increase family community inclusion.

Underpinning all of this work is a belief that a prisoner's life does not stop once they are inside; that sentence should not apply to their families and especially their children, and maintaining the family link is vital to successful rehabilitation.

The whole family are offered support for as long as a year before release and critically for six months post release.

This support comes in many forms, ranging from advice and support with parenting, physical and mental health, schooling, accommodation, substance misuse, finance/debt and relapse prevention.

At the most basic level, fathers are encouraged to build a relationship with their children.

Mrs Moon said: "Not many MPs can claim to have a multi-award-winning prison in their constituency. In the eight years I have been representing the Bridgend constituency, I have been fortunate to attend numerous award ceremonies recognising the work of a dedicated

group of staff and volunteers who developed innovative approaches to rehabilitating prisoners in their care.

"Under the leadership of Janet Wallsgrove and Corin Morgan-Armstrong, among others, Parc has led the way in taking risks to rehabilitate families. It was a pleasure to highlight the work of this special team and their work.

"Crime, the consequences of crime and dealing with offenders is expensive. Re-offending alone is estimated to cost anything between £9.5 and £13 billion a year. Besides the financial costs, those affected by crime, the victims and

their families and the families of offenders bear a cost which has a lasting effect. Children of offenders are more likely to offend themselves.

"Six out of 10 boys with a convicted parent end up in custody themselves. By engaging prisoners and their families, Invisible Walls tackles this head on.

"In his response to my debate, the Minister, Jeremy Wright MP, praised the work being done at Parc and expressed a hope that it can be replicated.

"He also gave an undertaking to look closely at the evaluation of Invisible Walls when it becomes available."

Remember, on Armed Forces Day

THIS weekend Bridgend will be celebrating Armed Forces Day. The event is a chance to support our Armed Forces and remember the contribution that they make to the nation.

While enjoying the celebrations, we should also remember the personal cost that is so often paid by our servicemen, women and their families. It is also a good time to remember all of those who have served before.

Next month is the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. It was a conflict that cost the lives of 1,139 British Service personnel from the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

Thousands of others were imprisoned or

injured. Many of those who fought were National Servicemen, young men called up for duty without option.

For many of those who served, the mental and physical wounds of this so-called "forgotten war" have left lifelong scars.

SSAFA is here for all those who serve, or have served, in our Armed Forces, regardless of conflict. The network of trained volunteers, including our Bridgend branch, work locally to make sure that help is always close at hand.

If you would like to find out more about the help we offer or would like to become a volunteer for SSAFA, please call 01656 785435 or e-mail daved43@sky.com

DAVE DAVIES, SSAFA mid Glamorgan.

PACT meetings

BYNTRIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT, at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, on Thursday, July 11 at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT, at the Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill, on Thursday, July 11 at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD and PENDRE PACT, at Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace), on Monday, July 22 at 6.30pm.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 04)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	10.07	9.8	22.22	9.9
28 Fri	10.53	9.4	23.13	9.5
29 Sat	11.35	9.0		
30 Sun	00.04	9.1	12.27	8.5
01 Mon	00.59	8.5	13.28	8.1
02 Tues	01.59	8.0	14.35	7.9
03 Wed	03.08	7.8	15.45	7.8
04 Thur	04.15	7.9	16.47	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Suspended sentence for mother who beat daughter with a belt

AN 11-year-old girl had to receive treatment, after her mother gave her a beating with a leather belt.

The child was struck on the buttocks and thighs six times, said prosecutor Matthew Cobb.

At Cardiff Crown Court, the mother, aged 34, from Bridgend, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, received an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, after pleading guilty to a charge of causing actual bodily harm.

She was also made subject to a 12-month supervision order, to pay £150 costs and be subject to a two-month electronically tagged curfew from 9pm-6am.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said: "Though the offence was out of character, it involved a total loss of control. For no good reason, you decided to teach your daughter a lesson."

"There was a degree of premeditation, and when she didn't say what you wanted her to say, you struck her six times."

Such behaviour, said the judge, was unacceptable and had to be punished.

Mr Cobb said that the woman became angry at the child and struck her with the belt on the buttocks and thighs, leaving a large area of bruising and red stripes, causing the child to be in pain the next day.

The woman was arrested and admitted striking the girl because she had told lies about a t-shirt.

She said she intended to hit her lightly, but "lost it", and didn't know how many times she struck her.

She added that the girl had screamed throughout the punishment.

A social worker, Karen Spencer, said that since the incident, the girl had been in foster care.

"It is clear this defendant had a warm and loving relationship with the child."

She said she was motivated to change and was sorry for what she had done.

Prison, she added, would "scupper" any progress and the girl wanted to go home.

Her barrister, Nicola Harris, said: "She was heartbroken by what she did, and bitterly regretted it. The injuries, though significant, were not serious and the bond remains strong."

Heroin addict is spared jail sentence

A DRUG addict who was "in a bad way", was seen by the police when they went to his home sitting on a sofa smoking heroin.

"Even though the officers were there, standing in front of him, he continued smoking, which shows how desperate he was," said his counsel, Kevin Seal.

Dean Wathan (30) of Min-y-Nant, Bridgend, admitted possessing heroin and possessing diazepam with intent to supply.

He was jailed for six months, suspended for 18 months, made subject to a supervision order for a year, and ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

Judge Rhys Rowlands told him: "Clearly, you are in a bad way. To use the vernacular, you were in a bit of a mess."

In prison, he said, Wathan had addressed his problem himself. The aggravating feature of the case, however, was that he was prepared to sell drugs to others to fund his habit.

However, said the judge, he had no previous convictions for supplying drugs.

And he warned him: "If you go back to your old ways, you will be at

risk of serving the six-month sentence.

"I hope that's not going to happen. There's a lot of help available and I hope you take it."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said the police went to Wathan's house regarding a domestic incident. There, they found Wathan smoking

heroin.

He was arrested and officers found a quantity of diazepam and heroin.

Text messages on his mobile phone were consistent with him being a dealer.

He was said to have convictions for possessing drugs.

Woman assaulted in Porthcawl street

POLICE in Porthcawl are investigating an incident which took place at around 9.10pm on Friday, June 21, on West End Avenue, Porthcawl, when a 23-year-old woman was approached by a man in his late 20s, seeking directions.

After engaging her in conversation, he took hold of her clothing and struck her across the face. She broke free, and got into her car and drove off while the attacker made off in the direction of West Park Drive.

He is described as white, in his late 20s or early 30s, about five feet seven inches tall and of average build. He had slight stubble on his chin and was wearing dark blue jeans, a grey hooded top with the hood up and

with a single pocket that went right through in front. He spoke with what is described as a "deep Barry accent," police said.

They are appealing for witnesses, or anyone who may have seen someone who fits this description, to contact them.

Detective Constable Michael Maund of Bridgend CID said:

"This was a very upsetting experience for the victim and we want to hear from anyone who may be able to assist us in our investigations."

"We also want to hear from anyone else who may have been involved in a similar incident and who may not have reported the incident to the police."

Contact DC Maund at Bridgend CID on 101, or Crimestoppers free, on 0800 555111 (quote reference 62130186732).

ARMED FORCES DAY WILL BE BRIDGEND'S TRIBUTE



BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is once again flying the special Armed Forces Day flag in honour of brave servicemen and women.

The flag was raised by Sergeant Julian Thomas of the Welsh Guards, outside the Civic Offices in Angel Street, Bridgend, in a formal ceremony on Monday (June 24).

It will fly each day up to and including Armed Forces Day this Saturday.

The flag-raising ceremony was attended by a number of local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Clive James, Youth Mayor Catherine Jones, members of BCBC's cabinet, Huw Irranca Davies MP and Janice Gregory AM.

The Royal British Legion Bridgend branch chairman, Major Wayne Morgan MBE, led veterans in a formal salute.

Coun James said: "We come to this place each and every year to fly this flag and thank our Armed Forces family."

"In doing so, we are reminded of the sacrifices of so many servicemen and women, and their families, in order that we can live in a safer and fairer world."

"I am especially pleased that a representative of the Welsh Guards was able to perform the flag-raising. As holders of the Freedom of the Borough, this regiment is close to our hearts."

Meanwhile the Bridgend and County Borough Veterans Association will hold its annual Armed Forces Day

parade through Bridgend town centre on Saturday, June 29, beginning at 12 noon and ending at approximately 1.30pm.

The parade will be led by the Welsh Transport Regiment (WTR) Corps of Drums with local VIPs including Council Leader and Armed Forces Champion, Coun Mel Nott OBE, also in attendance.

Veterans will march from Bridgend civic offices to the town centre war memorial where there will be a celebratory tribute to the armed forces.

The parade will be followed by a concert in the Bridgend Recreation Centre bowls hall, ticket entry only.

It is hoped that residents will turn out in their hundreds, as last year, to applaud the parade and join in prayers and hymns around the war memorial.

Major Wayne Morgan MBE said: "This is about celebrating our armed forces, both regular and reserve."

"There are many of those servicemen and women in our communities today, who have done their soldiering and now look to us to do our bit to support them - while abroad, on operations, doing the job we as a nation ask of them, and at home, resettling peacefully, trying to forget their sometimes bitter experiences."

"Bridgend county borough will shortly be signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant and as such, will be demonstrating its unquestionable commitment to all of those who continue to serve or have served in our armed forces."

'Give Rest a chance'

An open letter to all borough councillors

'YOU will be aware that the Rest Home charity at Rest Bay, Porthcawl, is to close in October and you will be asked at the July 3 council meeting to ratify a redevelopment plan allowing it to become luxury apartments.'

For 145 years, this charity has been successfully managed through immense changes.

However, the management has now decided to close and sell to developers.

With a growing population of older people and a struggling health service, many feel there is an increasing nationwide need for such a charity that offers inexpensive respite care holidays to the less fortunate members of our society.

The Rest provides for the independent frail and elderly, many guests suffer from poor health, many are disabled or supporting disabled family members, and many just need respite from stress.

Talk to any of their guests and you will be told the Rest experience is second to none for their needs.

There is a strong local

desire not to let the Rest die without collectively trying to overcome its problems and our First Minister and AM Carwyn Jones, our MP and many local groups and politicians want to try and save it.

I believe that the Charity Commission could step in to help rectify the situation, if asked.

As our representatives, we urge you to try and help the needy. Talk to the guests and staff of this charity and, as with all important community buildings, take time to scrutinise and investigate all possible actions before coming to a final decision.

Old age and poor health can be a very difficult time of life for the older community and therefore we hope you can understand the need for the Rest to be given a chance to expand with professional help, rather than close its wonderful facilities.'

GARY VICTOR

(Chairman of Porthcawl SHOUT Forum, the voice of the older community)

Bridgend MP's twin visit on National care home open day



CARE HOMES ON SHOW!

The MP with care home manager Alyson Owens-Neill at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl, and the art class.

On Friday, June 21, care homes across the country opened their doors to the public for the first time to show local people the range of care services they provide.

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon was invited to visit Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Porthcawl and

Southmead Grange in South Cornelly.

In Porthcawl, she talked to residents and staff taking part in an art class. Later in the day, there was also to be a choir and Welsh cakes and tea for visitors.

At Southmead Grange, she looked at stalls put together by staff and joined in the raffle.

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Young people take their vision on a march to the Senedd

VALLEY and Vale Community Arts is a not-for-profit charitable organisation based in Betws, Bridgend and it offers creative projects in south Wales.

The aim of the organisation is to promote positive change in people and places.

This summer, it is launching a campaign to provide a platform for young adults to come together and be heard, with a four-day walk from Bridgend to the Senedd in Cardiff along the 'new coastal path' on July 12-15.

Much of the work at Valley and Vale involves work with young people, and staff are in touch with the current situation faced by this particular group.

I have serious concerns when I work with young people in colleges and universities.

I see them getting into enormous debt, sometimes up to £30k and working hard for three years with absolutely no guarantee that they will have a job at the end of this.

We wanted to create a project that could address this predicament by exploring the situation from a young person's point of view and then supporting them to share this with their

by TRACY EVANS,
Development worker at Valley and Vale Community Arts in Bridgend

wider communities. This project is called Inner Compass.

It is not a political march to influence politicians; we are not going to the Senedd to complain, we are not going to say that what the Government is doing wrong.

We are going there to promote positive change with a new vision of how we want our lives to be.

The staff at Valley and Vale Community Arts are continuously inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of the young people they work with.

They want to help young people to harness this force to create sustainable change and to empower them to be the change they want to see in the world.

By walking we're taking action, and the valleys of south Wales have a history of walking for action.

One such inspirational story is the action taken by one woman, Ann Pettit, who by making a decision to walk from Cardiff to Greenham Common to protest about the use of cruise missiles, indirectly

ly sparked off a 19-year campaign.

Valley and Vale are inviting young adults age 18-25 to join them on the walk and also to meet them at points along the route or at the Senedd.

There is space for up to ten people in the 'core' walking group, who will have a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people, and have a memorable outdoor experience.

Each young person will receive free training in film, photography, movement and blogging. As places are limited, young people are advised to get in touch via the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/innercompass2013, by June 14.

This campaign will be successful if we all stand behind our young people.

Others can do this by following their journey online, on Facebook or Twitter @valleyandvale #followthecreativejourney.

Any donations for the walk will be welcomed - this could include tents, sleeping bags, food and drinks. Please contact Valley and Vale on 01656 729246 for more information.

Quiz League questions

HERE are your four-for-thought:

1. Dubai Creek which divides the city of Dubai into two is an inlet of which body of water?
2. Americans call them 'yardbirds', what do we call them?
3. Who, in 1990, was the first boxer to beat Mike Tyson in a pro contest?
4. What is the lowest part of the earth's atmosphere, which may be 2km high above the earth's surface?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

Answers:
1. Persian Gulf.
2. Cornic.
3. Buster Douglas.
4. Troposphere.

'Surf Watch' offers crime protection tips in Porthcawl

POLICE in Porthcawl are reminding surfers to think security before setting off to ride the waves.

The warning follows a recent spate of vehicle thefts on one of Wales' most popular surfing beaches.

Acting sector police inspector Matthew Lewis said: "Too many visitors to our surfing beaches think it is safe just to leave their car keys on beneath the wheel arch of their vehicle or under a towel or rock on the beach while they are surfing."

"They have to realise that there are unscrupulous individuals who are watching these places and will take any opportunity to steal their car or van while they are in the sea."

"Our neighbourhood officers are working with local traders and life-guards to run Surf Watch, which is designed to offer crime prevention advice as

well as conduct high visibility patrols at popular surfing beaches like Rest Bay in order to deter car thieves."

The policing team is working in partnership with local surf companies to provide waterproof key pouches to surfers so they can keep their vehicles safe.

The scheme was first introduced at Rest Bay three years ago by PC Chris Bluck and PCSO Leighton Rees.

PC Bluck said: "In the past three years, Surf Watch has reduced the number of thefts from vehicles in Rest Bay dramatically. We want to continue the same success with the initiative this summer."

For crime prevention advice or more information on the Surf Watch initiative, contact Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing Team on 101 or contact us via Twitter @swpcen-tral.

Local teenager appears in BBC TV's Casualty

A TALENTED youngster has won a sought-after TV role in a prime time medical drama.

Abbey Roderick (16), from Ewenny Road, Bridgend, has landed a lead role in the popular BBC TV series Casualty. Abbey auditioned for the role in London. After two recalls and a screen test, Abbey was offered the role and spent two weeks filming on the set of BBC Casualty at the new Roath Lock film studios in Cardiff Bay.

The Brynteg Comprehensive teenager said: "I have always watched Casualty, but I never thought I would ever be in it. It was strange meeting the



ABBEY RODERICK.

actors that you had only seen before on TV."

Proud mum Amanda Roderick said: "We were so pleased when we received the call saying she had been offered the role and she loved every minute of filming."

"Abbey has always loved acting, but in the last year has really developed her skills and now her experience."

Public invite to the oldest dwelling in Bridgend

THE oldest habitable dwelling in Bridgend is opening to the public this weekend.

Situated in the conservation area of Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, it is the Grade II listed building, St John's House, which is now protected by a trust.

St John's House Trust was formed 12 months ago, with the intention of buying the property, preventing it being turned into flats,

and making it accessible to the public.

To celebrate the Trust's 'birthday', over the weekend the house will be open on Saturday and Sunday (June 29-30).

Meibion y Ddraig (Sons of the Dragon) will be at the house to demonstrate their archery skills and equipment.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to try medieval games and to view the house, either by guided tour or by a walk around.

Biking through Bridgend for donor families

TO mark National Transplant Week, (July 8-14), a number of specialist nurses in organ donation from NHS Blood and Transplant, will tackle 390-mile bike ride across Wales to raise awareness of organ donation and the need for families to talk about their wishes.

The bike ride will be supported by the Welsh Government's Heart to Heart Roadshow, which will be located at locations across south Wales, including Sainsbury's, Bridgend on the morning of Wednesday, July 10.

Members of the public can drop in to find out more about organ donation, including the importance of knowing the wishes of family members and how to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register.

"We see every day, as part of our jobs, how difficult it is for people to deal with the loss of a loved one. It's a

traumatic time but, in my experience, families who agree to donation gain considerable comfort from knowing that they have given someone else the gift of life."

Cash raised will be donated to Donor Family Network, a charity that promotes the positive benefits of organ and tissue donation for the families of those who have died and donated, for recipients and for those awaiting transplants.

Bridgend-born Melanie Wager, a kidney transplant recipient, commented: "I very much admire these nurses and their devotion to the cause of organ donation."

"They have given up a week of their holiday to highlight the importance of organ donation to members of the public. It's a pleasure for me to support them on their journey. I wish them well and appreciate what they are doing."

MP IN CALL FOR PROTECTION OF SEVERN ESTUARY



Madeleine Moon MP with Charles Walker MP and Kate Jennings of RSPB.

(Photo by Martin Salter, Angling Trust)

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has joined other MPs and environmental groups in calling for the con-

cept of a Severn Barrage to be abandoned, and more environmentally sound projects to be considered instead.

Mrs Moon, as vice-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Conservation and Wildlife, joined other MPs and environmental groups including the RSPB, the Severn Rivers Trust, CPRE, the Angling Trust and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at a meeting in the House of Commons to discuss the impact of a barrage.

She said: "The meeting provided an insight into the environmental impact of a barrage. Considerable damage could be caused to wildlife that depends on the estuary.

"A barrage could

also have a detrimental impact on the local economy, as it could cause the build-up of silt, preventing the movement of shipping. To harness the power of the Severn, we need to consider alternatives to a barrage.

"The ecologically important River Severn and its estuary belongs to us all. We must proclaim loud and long that the rich diversity is not for sale, not for destruction, not for large scale development.

"We are, however, willing to negotiate to share its water bounty for sustainable, ecologically sound energy generating schemes and look forward to a new era of cooperation and creative endeavour."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Andrew Colin Hill - 20 Westward Place, Bridgend - Reduce crown and canopy by 50 per cent.

Mr Mike Harris - 92 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl - Demolish existing lean-to at rear and erect two storey extension, new window to side and fire escape to first floor.

JBS Fibre Recovery - Unit C5, North Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Change of use from deconstruction of used mattresses, bed bases, soft furnishings and furniture.

Mrs F Patterson - 104 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla - Single storey extension.

Mr Gwyn Phillips - 75 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend - Internal alterations to kitchen/utility room, external alterations to

kitchen window and single storey WC/utility extension.

CAD Properties - Trade Secret, 6 Caroline Street, Bridgend - Change of use from retail (use Class A1) to cafe (use Class A3).

Mrs S Gajda - Land adjacent 3 Ty Bryn Terrace, Hendre Road, Pencoed - Use of land as garden for 2 Ty Bryn Terrace and erection of temporary building for ancillary residential use.

Mr B Williams - 10 Plas Kenfig, North Cornelly - Single storey rear extension to provide ground floor bedroom and shower room and associated works.

Mr J and Mrs A E Parfitt - Land adjacent Caer Gymrig, Garth, Maesteg - Four three-bedroom detached houses.

Mr Gwyn Phillips - 75 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend - Internal alterations to kitchen/utility room, external alterations to

Maesteg's town festival a success, as locals enjoy a mix of outdoor and indoor events

PHOTOGRAPHS by
CHRIS DAVIES
Internet for communication

MAESTEG'S town festival was a great success, with a wide range of different events held in and around the town.

Outdoor events made full use of local parks, with nature walks, traditional activities such as bowls, fun games such as sack races, children's fairground rides, and open-air music and dancing from local bands.

There were a number of concerts from local choirs, and a 'Maesteg's Got Talent' competition, won by Ellie Jones, a young dancer from Pencoeed. (See picture below).



ABOVE:
Ellie Jones, of Pencoeed, was the winner of the 'Maesteg's Got Talent' concert in the town hall. She is pictured receiving her prize from the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Ross Thomas.



YSGOL Y FERCH O'R SGER PUPILS VISIT SANDVILLE



LEFT:
The children hand over their cheque to Sister Gwyneth Poacher at the Sandville.

RECENTLY, Mrs Rhiannon Dixon, the headteacher at Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger, visited Sandville Court with pupils from the school to present a cheque to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, which the school had raised from the sale of 30th anniversary school group photographs.

The students sang to the patients with gusto and enthusiasm, including many Welsh traditional songs (all from memory without song sheets or any accompaniment).



The choir enjoying a reward from the Sandville's ice cream treasure chest.

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Rotarians help to keep cyclists up to speed...

BRIDGEND and Porthcawl Rotarians recently helped to man the feeding stations for the Wiggle Dragon Cycle Race, one of the top events in UK cycling, taking in the classic climbs of the Bwlch, Rhigos and Brecon Beacons mountain road.

An early Sunday morning start meant that six members of the Rotary Club of Porthcawl followed the vans driven by Bridgend Rotarians (who had organised the food and drink for each station) to their various lay-by positions on the Brecon Beacons.

There, each team erected gazebos and tables, and spread out hundreds and hundreds of power cereal bars, apple pies, Welsh cakes, cherry Bakewell tarts, bananas – not to mention the many bags of salted potatoes and the two

'bowzers' which each held hundreds of gallons of water ... and waited ... and waited.

One by one, the 'elite' riders arrived, riding the full 130 miles, starting and finishing at Margam Park. Some chose to bypass the feeding station but most made a brief stop, taking food and water to consume later.

The trickle of riders soon became a deluge and for a manic two to three-hour period, hundreds of cyclists were arriving at the same time!

The Rotarians somehow managed to keep up with demand, which gradually abated as the slower cyclists ambled up to take refreshments.

It was early evening before they arrived home. They had started the day with a little trepidation – after all, it was their first experience – but it ended with each one keen to volunteer next year!

IVOR WILLIAM

A GROUP of dads whose children go to St David's Church-in-Wales School, Colwinston, recently completed a charity bike ride.

They tackled the ride to raise cash for the Friends of the School.

One of the riders, Tom Cook, said: "Despite the unwellcome return of the gloomy grey clouds and the threat of rain, we met at the Carne Arms in Llyswoyney to cycle around the Vale.

"After a challenging ride, we paused at the Plough and Harrow in Monknash for some refreshment and chips (courtesy of landlady Paula) as well as some emergency repairs to one slightly wobbly wheel.

"The ride continued in the gathering dark via the Lamb and Flag in Wick to the Sycamore Tree in Colwinston, where preliminary discussions were held regarding next year's ride", he added

DADS SADDLE UP FOR A BIKE RIDE TO BOOST SCHOOL FUND



ABOVE:

David Farrell, Derek Goode, Neil Galivan, John Goldsworthy, John Hawkins, Simon Sandford-Taylor and Peter Davis.

Airline is fined – for carrying Mexican cat

AN airline has been fined £1,800 for carrying a Mexican cat – following an investigation by the Vale Council's trading standards team.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines was prosecuted at Cardiff Magistrates Court on Thursday, June 13 for offences under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order 1974 and the Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order 2011.

The Vale Council's prosecutor Richard Price stated KLM were found guilty of carrying a cat originating from Mexico on a non-approved aircraft carrier and landing the cat at

Cardiff Airport, which is not permitted to receive pet animals.

The cat was found to be travelling on an invalid pet passport and there were discrepancies over its rabies vaccination and identification.

KLM was fined £1,800 and ordered to pay costs of £3,000 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Principal trading standards officer, Christina Roberts-Kinsey, said: "This is another fine example of the good work undertaken by our animal health officers in the Vale of Glamorgan."

Happily, the cat (called Misha) has since been successfully reunited with her owners.

MP joins rail safety talks

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon met Education Minister Elizabeth Truss to discuss how rail safety lessons can be incorporated into the National Curriculum.

Mrs Moon was accompanied by one of her constituents, Geraint Llewellyn, who is a high speed train driver and has developed rail safety lessons for primary school children.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of First Great Western, who have assisted Mr Llewellyn with the project. Mrs Moon said: "Following the meeting

with the Minister at the Department for Transport, I was delighted to secure time with the Department for Education to see how rail safety lessons can be made available to as many children as possible.

"It is vital that children understand the dangers of playing on or near railway lines. Not only are lives put at risk, but there is also the emotional trauma for drivers and rail staff and the financial cost to the rail industry.

"I will continue to support Mr Llewellyn and his colleagues at First Great Western in their outstanding work to make lessons available."

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



The League of Friends sorting the raffle.

Maesteg Hospital League of Friends

MAESTEG hospital is celebrating its centenary and has been supported by the League of Friends for more than 50 years.

The League held its annual concert to raise funds for the hospital last Friday, June 21, in the Garth Celtic Club.

I had the pleasure of attending and it was nice to see the club was packed, with every seat taken.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were Janice Gregory, AM for Ogmogre, and husband Mike, and the Mayor of Bridgend CBC, Coun Clive James and his wife. I apologise if I have omitted anyone.

The concert started with that wonderful choir Cŵr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male voice choir) conducted by its musical director Rhian Jenkins and accompanied by Ryan Wood, who sang three famous Welsh songs, 'Rachie', 'Myfanwy' and 'Tydi a Roddaist'.

Then there was the complete contrast in music and song when musical director, conductor and accompanist Wendy Murphy, with the ladies choir 'Harmony', came on stage and sang the Duke Ellington song 'It don't mean a thing' and 'I'm blessed'.

Next on stage was a young baritone who is breaking into the London West End theatre musical scene, Adam Lewis, a past pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari, who sang 'Stars' from *Les Miserables*.

Cŵr Meibion then sang a special arrangement by its assistant musical director Huw Morgan of 'Anthem' from the show *Chess*, the first time the choir had sung this version in public, and it was really well done.

with his version of 'Why God Why' from the show *Miss Saigon*.

Both male and female choirs returned on stage with songs from their repertoires, and the evening finished with the audience standing and singing the national anthem.

I would like to congratulate the League of Friends for organising such a musical delight, and for the fact that, since its formation, it has raised more than £300,000 for the hospital.

Aberkenfig & District WI
ON June 12, president Eunice Williams welcomed the members of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute to its 32nd birthday meeting.

Eunice then gave the sad news that Marjory Owen's husband Godfrey had died on June 10. The members sent their sympathies to the family.

'Happy Birthday' was sung to the June birthday belles, Pauline Soley, Pearl Major, Mair Starr and Hilary Crocombe.

Eunice then read out the list of forthcoming events including a lunch at Greenacres in North Cornelly, before leaving by coach to attend the Glamorgan Federation Garden Party at Margam Park in the afternoon.

There will also be a planned visit to Fommon Castle in August, with lunch included.

Eunice also read out the details of the Christmas carol festival in St David's Hall, Cardiff, in December, which will feature the Glamorgan Women's Institute massed choir, conducted by Alun Tregelles Williams with soloist Huw Tregelles Williams and special guests 'Only Men Aloud'.

The members then proceeded with the highlight of the day, a beautiful birthday tea with sandwiches, small cakes and pastries, strawberries and cream and, of course, a birthday cake.

The raffle was drawn and the winners were Barbara Morris, Ethel Ridge, Peggy Jones and Dilys Mitchell.

The competition for an item beginning with

the letter 'R' was won by Irene with a large ring in its own ring box.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District WI will be on July 10 at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, and new members and visitors are always welcome.

This will be the last meeting before the August break.

There will not be a speaker but there will be the competition for a small item beginning with the letter 'A' and a nice cup of tea and a chance to chat and make new acquaintances.

For further details about Aberkenfig WI, telephone secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933 or go to www.cobwebs.co.uk which also has the full programme for the rest of the year.

Bridgend Male Choir
FOR many months, Bridgend Male Choir have been rehearsing a number of new songs in preparation for the 47th Anglo-Welsh Festival of Male Choirs.

On June 1, the first festival concert took place in Birmingham Town Hall, a wonderful venue for choral music, matched only by St David's Hall, Cardiff, where the second leg was staged on June 2.

For the majority of the Bridgend chorists, these concerts were their first experience of being on stage in a massed event with half-a-dozen other choirs, totalling over 350 chorists at each venue.

Indeed, for some of the Bridgend singers, it was their first public engagement as they had only just completed their probationary period.

All concerned thoroughly enjoyed the thrill of performing before large audiences, especially with new musical directors in charge of the concerts.

On June 9, the choir sang again in the marquee at the conclusion of Mair's Walk.

This was another outstanding occasion, blessed by excellent weather and an excellent turn-out of walkers, led by the irrepressible Max Boyce, a patron of the choir.



Rhian Jenkins and Ryan Wood



Wendy Murphy

The choral contribution that day concluded, inevitably, with a rendering of Hymns and Arias, with, of course, Max giving the solo.

After such a busy start to the summer season, the choir will enjoy a short break before the engagements continue with another invitation for the choir to sing on Armed Forces Day in Cooper's Field, Cardiff on Saturday, June 29. Once again, the choir hopes there will be good weather!

On Friday, July 5, the choir will be performing at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, sharing the stage with the choir of Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School, as well as selected winners of the 2013 Treorchy Eisteddfod. The concert is being held to raise funds in support of the Prostate Cymru Charity.

Brackla Community Chorus
THIS friendly choir will perform its summer concert in Brackla Community Centre, Whitethorn Drive, to take place on Friday July 12 at 7.30pm.

The choir rehearses in the community centre on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. Visitors and new members will be most welcome.

Tynyrheol Primary School
MR Martin Griffiths, the headteacher, advises responsible adults with children at the school that there will be an important meeting to discuss the formation of classes next September, the introduction of the support groups for the children which he hopes will start in the

next school term and the planned trip for pupils to Llangrannog.

He advises that the special assembly held for the children who will be leaving the school to go to the comprehensive schools, will be held on Wednesday, July 17 at 9.15am.

Tondu Primary School
MRS Susan Pilcher, the headteacher, would like to invite parents and friends of pupils in year-5 classes (Taf and Usk) to join their children in the class assembly tomorrow, Friday June 28 at 10.20am.

Everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy a chat with friends and staff including a hot drink of coffee or tea afterwards.

The school each year has a citizenship award scheme which helps the children understand what they can do to make a contribution to their home, school and community, both locally and in the wider world.

All pupils will receive a bronze, silver or gold award, depending on the level of their involvement.

These awards will be presented at a ceremony in Aberkenfig Bible Church on Tuesday, July 9 at 2pm.

Maesteg Children's Choir
THE choir holds its annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall tomorrow, Friday, June 28 at 7pm.

It features songs from the 80s including 'Walking on Sunshine', 'Super Trouper' and 'Making your Mind Up'.

The choir's founding musical director Enid-Sian Hughes will be the conductor for the evening, assisted by

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
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'Dirty Dog Eyewear' representative Mr Tom Lazarus (left) and year-9 Brynteg pupils Scott Winter (centre) and Ben Davies (right) with their prizes.

new accompanist Alex Jenkins, and the compère for the evening will be the popular Tony Mullins.

Tickets can be obtained from choir members, by telephone 07970 770927 or at the door.

Ogmogre Valley Male Voice Choir

THIS busy choir of 35 members has been invited to lead the hymn singing at two weddings on Saturday, July 6, and it would like to congratulate Mark Mumford and Katie Fenney on their forthcoming special day at St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr at 12 noon, and also Tom Arkwright and Yvette Le Court at Ewenny Priory at 2.30pm.

The choir intends to take part in a three-nation cultural exchange, with a tour in Croatia in November which will involve choirs from Latvia and Croatia.

The choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmogre Vale, on Thursday evenings.

There will be a warm welcome to visitors and prospective new members at any rehearsal.

Brynteg School

THE comprehensive's head of the French department Mrs Debra Walsh, is to be congratulated for contacting CILT Cymru regarding its Business Languages champion scheme.

The school was then encouraged to contact a company called 'Dirty Dog Eyewear'.

The company arranged for its distribution and logistics man-



ABOVE: Bridgend CBC Mayor, Coun and Mrs Clive James.

ager, Mr Tom Lazarus, to visit the school. He gave the pupils in class 9 an interesting insight into the work he had carried out on behalf of the company.

He informed the pupils that because of his ability to speak French, it had opened up countless opportunities in the commercial markets, and he had been able to travel all over the world.

He then set the pupils the challenge of designing a ski helmet which the French national ski team would be able to use; he transcribed the pupils' ideas on a video with a translation in French.

After judging the class 9 pupils' ideas, Mr Lazarus declared that he was particularly impressed with the details in the design by Ben Davies and Scott Winter.

The winners were each allowed to choose a pair of sunglasses from the Dirty Dog Eyewear website.

Mr Lazarus also praised the effort put

into this project by all the pupils in class nine.

Mrs Debra Walsh said: "The visit made a real impression on pupils and feedback from them was positive, with some commenting that they didn't realise how important languages could be in the workplace – or how studying a language could be linked to business and technology."

"The school would like to thank Mr Tom Lazarus for giving up his time and CILT Cymru for organising this very worthwhile link."

SPECIAL SERVICE
THE congregations of the churches within the Llansantffraid Betws and Aberkenfig parish are reminded that there will be a joint special service at St David's Church, Betws, this Sunday, June 30, at 10am.

CALL FOR LOLLIPOP LADY TO BE HONOURED

How the community of Rhoose pulled together when people feared the worst...

RIGHT:
Emergency vehicles swiftly converged on Rhoose.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNY SOLMAN



THE village of Rhoose remains in shock, a week after an out-of-control car ploughed into nine adults and children outside the primary school.

The incident took place at around 8.50am on Thursday, June 20. Four of the nine casualties had "significant injuries". A nine-year-old girl was in a serious, but stable condition in the paediatric intensive care department at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

The local lollipop lady, Karin Williams, 50, has been hailed a "heroine" and "inspirational" for her selfless action in pushing children out of the way of the on-coming Audi, before being thrown into the air after it struck her.

She had to undergo surgery after breaking her legs, knee caps, elbow and ribs.

The police are not treating the incident as a deliberate act. It's understood that the driver, who was taking his grand daughter to school, may have had coughing fit, prior to the car jolting forward and hitting a road hump.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said Karin Williams' courage should be recognised.

"I will be backing the recommendation for special recognition of Karin Williams, the lollipop lady who showed exceptional and selfless courage.

"She has inspired everyone who has been touched by her actions on that day to protect the children in her care."

Educational psychologists been at the school since the collision, offering pupils and staff counselling.

The acting headteacher Jan Morgan said the situation had been extremely traumatic for everyone concerned in the incident.

"All members of staff showed exceptional strength of character as they dealt with the rapidly changing situation, both at the scene of the accident and inside the school.

"We are very proud of the way in which the whole school community pulled together under difficult circumstances."

Local councillor, Jeff James, said

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE: Aftermath – the Audi is lifted onto a low loader.

people were horrified when they first heard about the incident.

"There was a real sense of horror felt by people when they first learned of the incident especially as it involved school children and the crossing attendant.

"Horror turned to relief as news emerged that the injuries were not considered life threatening – that it had been a terrible accident rather than a terrible tragedy."

Coun James praised the swift response of the emergency services, people connected to the school and the local community.

"I witnessed the caring professional actions of the school staff and in particular Jan Morgan, the acting head who, with her team, showed a calm resolve to ensure the children were firstly cared for, and then that the classes went ahead.

"The school hall became a makeshift base for the emergency services who had responded with such speed and professionalism.

"The response was amazing, with the air ambulance first on the scene then police and ambulances and also fire engines.

"Thank God it turned out to be injuries – as bad as they were – and not fatalities.

"There were many people who offered help and support. At the school I met Paula Hamm, of the Vale education department, along with Louise Lynn, the head, and Steve Williams the chairman of governors.

"Rhoose Community Hall was made available and St Peters Church was opened to all and some church members provided tea and coffee to the emergency services, parents and public.

"Many talk of Rhoose being a close knit community and it became evident that day through people's actions, through their care and concern, and the help offered in so many ways.

"I am sure there are those whose help, assistance and care have gone unrecognised but you can be assured it was appreciated by everyone and especially those involved with the accident.

"I wish all those injured, including Karin Williams, a speedy recovery and a safe return to a very special community and a very special school."

The incident made news across the globe.

Coun James added: "A relative of a friend was watching transfixed at his home in Singapore which shows the reach of media interest."

Gilmore family thanks LATCH for its support when Oscar (3) was ill

A local family are holding a community event in Tondur – to thank the LATCH charity for the way it supported their grandson during a particularly stressful time.

Roy Gilmore told The GEM: "Late last year our grandson, Oscar, at the age of three, was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

"Thanks to the skills and care of the medical team, he is on the mend.

"LATCH, a local Welsh-based charity, supported this little child and provided support to his parents and siblings.

"Now we want to hold a fundraising day for the charity."

Roy admitted that he had never

heard of the LATCH until it provided all the invaluable help, support and advice for the family.

Roy said: "The Gilmore family, friends, neighbours, and businesses are putting on a sale of donated goods to provide funds for LATCH.

"This event will be held at the Ynysawdre Community Hall, Bryn Road, Tondur, on Saturday, August 10 from 12am to 4pm. Entry is free, but there will be a donation box."

There will be a stall selling toys, crafts, books, tombola, lucky dip, white elephant, an auction, the usual raffle and much more!

If people would like more information, or would like to donate an item, Roy Gilmore can be contacted on 01656 723240.

Man with 'cocktail of drugs' avoids jail

Report by AJ SICLUNA

POLICE found a "cocktail of drugs" when they searched the home of a St Athan man, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Officers also found £395 in cash, which was ordered by the court to be forfeited.

Clinton Goodwin (33) was caught when a drugs operation was carried out at Cardiff University Students Union.

Goodwin, of Scott Close, St Athan, was convicted by Cardiff Magistrates of possessing class A, B and C drugs, and being concerned in offering to supply drugs.

He was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work, and to be subject to a two-month electronically tagged curfew, from 6pm to 9am, and to pay £150 costs.

The court heard that nine years ago, Goodwin received a three-year sentence for supplying class A drugs.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said: "You didn't learn a great deal from that sentence. You were found in possession of a cocktail of drugs when you were detained at Cardiff University".

Prosecutor Matthew Cobb said he was spotted by staff at the Students Union in

December and handed over to the police.

He was found to have a number of drugs but said he only dealt in ketamine to fund his own habit.

He said he had sold nine to ten grammes a week for 10 months and ketamine had affected his health.

His barrister Will Cordingley said: "He immediately laid his cards on the table.

"He had a drug dependency problem for some time, but no longer takes drugs, with the result that his health has improved. He has a positive outlook and for the last six months has made progress."

Kenfig Hill Mules' summer ball is a winner for Sandville



ABOVE:

Kenfig RFC representatives make the cheque presentation.

EVERY year, Kenfig Hill Rugby Football Club, 'The Mules', holds a summer ball in aid of local charities.

This year, 'The Mules' raised £1,000, which was donated to the Sandville Self Help Centre

at Ton Kenfig, and a cheque for this amount was presented to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, by Howard Philllips and Gary Chappell, chairman and treasurer respectively of 'The Mules'.

MP meets Minister for rail safety talks

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon met Education Minister Elizabeth Truss to discuss how rail safety lessons can be incorporated into the National Curriculum.

Mrs Moon was accompanied by one of her constituents, Geraint Llewellyn, who is a high speed train driver and has developed rail safety lessons for primary school children.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of First Great Western, who have assisted Mr Llewellyn with the project.

Mrs Moon said: "Following the meeting with the Minister at the Department for Transport, I was delighted to secure time with the Department for Education to see how rail safety lessons can be made available to as many children as possible.

"It is vital that children understand the dangers of playing on or near railway lines. Not only are lives put at risk, but there is also the emotional trauma for drivers and rail staff and the financial cost to the rail industry.

"I will continue to support Mr Llewellyn and his colleagues at First Great Western in their outstanding work to make lessons available."

Judge's anger after man is charged with lesser offence

THE Crown Prosecution Service has been severely criticised by a judge at Cardiff Crown Court, for the way in which it handled a case in which a young man escaped from the police and had a four-hour stand-off with officers, firemen and an ambulance crew in Barry.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said: "It was incomprehensible that Che Siirak (18) had been charged with obstructing the police and not with escaping."

Siirak, of York Place, Barry, had admitted a charge of obstructing, failing to surrender, dangerous driving, and driving without insurance.

For obstructing the police, he was sent to a young offender institution for two weeks, and for dangerous driving, 30 weeks, to run consecutively.

The judge said that for the obstruction charge, the maximum sentence was four weeks. If he had been charged and convicted of escape, he said he would have given him seven months.

Report by AJ SICLUNA

Prosecutor Matthew Cobb said that on March 26, police went to his home to effect an arrest warrant. In the garden, he tried to escape, but was caught and handcuffed.

Walking to a police vehicle, he sprinted off towards Broad Street and ended up, still handcuffed, on the flat roof of a block of flats.

He shouted: "I'm not spending the night in a ***** cell, I'll jump if you get near me."

An ambulance and two fire engines turned up, and the stand off lasted over four hours.

The judge said that the Crown Prosecution Service had decided to charge the defendant with the lesser offence of obstruction.

"Why did the CPS make such a decision? It was incomprehensible."

The court heard that while on bail, the defendant drove dangerously in Pontypridd Road, Barry, and nearby Jenner Road.

It was estimated that in a 30 mile per hour

area, he travelled along Jenner Road at 70mph, causing several motorists to take evasive action.

Driving an Audi, he got away from the police and was arrested two days later.

He told them he panicked because he didn't have a licence or insurance.

The court heard that Siirak had a conviction for escaping from custody, and for causing damage.

His solicitor, Adam Sharpe, said: "He is immature, and has attention deficit problems. On the day of his arrest, there was concern about his mental condition."

He said that regarding the dangerous driving, no damage or injury was caused, and he was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

He added: "For years, he was involved with a criminally proactive group, but no longer."

The judge pointed out that a sentence for obstructing the police unfortunately did not reflect the full culpability of what he did.

Siirak was also banned from driving for two years and ordered to take the extended driving test.

MPs donation to Foodbank



Madeleine Moon MP with volunteers at the foodbank.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon dropped into the Bridgend Foodbank with a donation for buying much-needed supplies.

She commented "Volunteers at the Foodbank need more food donations or cash donations to help with the growing needs of the community. Specifically, they are requesting jam, milk (UHT) fruit juice, sugar and biscuits."

"Food vouchers are issued by care professionals such as health visitors, social workers, domestic violence charities, CAB, Job CentrePlus and the Wallich. They identify people in need and provide food vouchers, which are then exchanged for three days' emergency food supplies."

The Foodbank has eight centres across the borough where food can be collected. They are:

Bridgend Centre: 79A Nolton Street, Bridgend, CF31 3AA. Open Mondays, Tuesdays 10am - 2pm; Friday 11am - 2pm.

Cornelly Centre: Cornelly Community Church, 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cornelly, CF33 4LW. Open Thursdays 1pm - 3pm.

Bettws Centre: Saint David's Church, Bettws Road, Bettws, CF32 8UE. Open Wednesdays 9am - 11am.

Porthcawl Centre: Griffin Park Community Centre, Griffin Park, Porthcawl. Open Friday 10am - 12 noon.

Pontycymer Centre: Tabernacle Chapel, Meadow Street, Pontycymer, CF32 8HG. Open Friday 11am - 2pm.

Maesteg Centre: Peniel Evangelical

Church, Station Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AL. Open Friday 11am - 3pm.

Aberkenfig Centre: The Storehouse, Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandry Road, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PP. Open: Thursday 10am - 12 noon.

Caerau Centre: Noddfa Community Centre, Caerau Road, Caerau, CF34 0PB. Tel. 07816 534413 Open: Tuesdays 10am - 12 noon.

To help with donating food or volunteering, contact them at 79, Nolton Street, Bridgend CF31 3AA - Telephone 01656 858713 or email bridgendfoodbank@aol.co.uk.

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Bridgend Rotary club's new team set for action!

Left to right: incoming president Allan Brooks, district governor-elect Sandra Townsend, and outgoing president, Rev Mike Lewis.

AT the Rotary Club of Bridgend, incoming president Allan Brooks presented his team and the programme for the coming year at club assembly, attended by incoming district governor nominee Sandra Townsend.

The year's full programme includes projects involving schools competitions, disabled football and fishing, support for local charities and for international health initiatives. A full social programme, including

walks and visits, was also presented.

New chairs of committees for the year 2013/2014 are as follows:

Sue Cassidy (community service committee); Judy McCarthy (international committee); Gillian Hale (new generations committee); Alan Reeks (club service committee); Sonja Cain (membership committee).

For more information about Rotary visit the website www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/home-page.php?ClubID=913.



Shop is the best dressed!

THE award for the Best Dressed Window at this year's Llantwit Major Victorian Fair was presented by the Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Keith Geary.

Charles Allen, the secretary of the fair, said: "There were six windows for the Mayor to judge and it was his esteemed opinion that the British Red Cross Clothing shop had the best window display in the town."

(SEE PICTURES FROM THE FAIR ON PAGE 24)

Cigarettes stolen in petrol station raid

POLICE are hunting thieves who raided the Texaco petrol station shop on Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, and stole several thousand pounds worth of cigarettes at about 3.45am on Sunday, June 23.

Detective Constable Michael Maund of Bridgend CID said: "It appears that whoever was responsible for this theft gained access from the rear of the property

in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"We are appealing for anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area, which backs on to Bridgend College, around this time to contact us. We also want to hear from anyone who may be offered any cigarettes for sale."

Contact DC Maund at Bridgend CID on 101 or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111, quote reference 62130188363.

Woman motorcyclist dies in collision on road near airport

A 46-YEAR-OLD woman motorcyclist died last week in a collision with a car near Cardiff Airport.

The crash happened shortly before 11pm on Wednesday, June 19. South Wales Police named the woman as Julie Tipper from Nantgarw. The collision occurred on the A4226 Rhose by-pass between the roundabout junctions of the British Airways Maintenance Centre and the monument roundabout at Cardiff Airport.

Julie's father has paid the following tribute to his daughter: "Julie was a most vivacious lady, bright and bubbly with a big soft heart."

"Above all else, she cared about people."

She loved dearly all creatures, a fact that was reflected in her personality.

"Julie had a profound love and respect of nature, hence her occupation as a park ranger for Cardiff City Council. She was kindness itself to a fault."

"If someone needed something she had, it was theirs for the asking."

"She was very open, and maybe somewhat glib, such was her faith and trust in human nature."

"She was a very popular girl, and had many friends. She enjoyed life, and lived it to the full."

Police are asking for anyone who may have witnessed the collision between the red and black Yamaha motorcy-



ABOVE: Julie Tipper.

cle and a green Vauxhall Corsa, or who may have seen the motorcycle beforehand, as it travelled from East Aberthaw to the collision scene near Cardiff Wales Airport on June 19, at around 10.50pm, to contact the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 101, or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555111.

Married man jailed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She said she told the defendant that sex with her would not be legal, and he replied: "Age is only a number."

She formally identified him and he admitted sexual activity had taken place, but he thought she was 16.

He indicated that he suffered from sexual addiction and had been treated by a therapist. He also said he possessed "an animal curiosity".

His counsel, Dickon Reid, said: "He has a problem, an addiction which he acknowledges. He accepts he has to do something about it."

"He suffers from Asperger's syndrome,

with impulsive behaviour and autism. The worst feature of the case is the age difference. He knew she was a minor, and there was no force or violence."

The judge said: "This is a very, very, serious case."

He said he had groomed the girl and was old enough to be her father.

He said he had spent money on clothes for her, and had taken advantage of the child.

Altogether, added the judge, 517 moving and static indecent images had been found.

Said the judge: "You were living a lie. Outwardly a successful man, but you had an immoral, depraved lifestyle."

DID YOU KNOW?
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STARS CELEBRATED EVERYONE'S FUTURE!

STARS from ITV's hit show *Off Their Rockers* concluded a day of music, dance and performance on the Glanfa Stage of the Wales Millennium Centre to celebrate the first year of the 'Everyone's Future' project.

The Big Lottery-funded, joint project between Vibe Experience and Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale tackles negative stereotyping and chal-

lenges age discrimination among younger and older people.

The event featured fantastic performances from Barry-based dance company Motion Control, young singers and bands from Area 41 youth centre's studio 41 band night, and rousing recitals from both Laura Bradshaw's Community Choir and Autumn

Sounds Older Persons Choir, and finished with a live Q&A with *Off Their Rockers'* Seb Craig and Rosemary Macvie.

For more information about the Everyone's Future project, contact Louise David, age equality worker (young people) on 01446 700622 or email louise@vibeexperience.com.



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VICTORIAN FAIR DAY DEFIES THE ODDS AND GOES AHEAD WITH TOUCH OF STYLE

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase,
telephone 07734 384536)
These and other pictures of
the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

WITH just weeks to go, Llantwit Major's Victorian Fair was hanging in the balance.

The community rallied together and, despite windy conditions, it went ahead on Saturday.

Locals showed that little touch of style by reflecting the Victorian theme in their dress.

As you can see from Mandy Thomas's pictorial record of the day the visitors and the entertainers both enjoyed themselves – and a Llantwit tradition was saved for future generation.



ABOVE: Taya and Max with their Dad.



ABOVE:
The chairman of the Victorian Fair, Byron Evans, was pleased with how the day went.



ABOVE: Sarah Llewellyn with son Alex and a painting by Sarah's mother, Eiranwy.



ABOVE: Heather March, looking very much the country gentlewoman!



Summer bridge competitions keep members busy

DURING the summer months, most Bridge clubs merely tick over – members are far more interested in cricket, Ascot, Royal Garden Parties and other activities.

However, the Porthcawl Club provides an interesting agenda of events to attract even the 'otherwise occupied' members.

Today (Thursday June 27) players will be competing for the Martha Davies Cup – a handicap teams event, followed in July by the Summer Triathlon pairs event, run over three consecutive Saturdays.

Latest results:

Saturday, June 8. First – Colin and Hazel Heard; second – Edward Bertram and Tony Haworth.

Monday, June 10. First – Peter and

Sandie Jenkins; second – Trish Saunders and Pat Cogbill.

Thursday, June 13. First – Rob Charlesworth and Keith Davison; second – Connie Dick and Pat Cogbill.

Saturday, June 15. First – Maurice and Margaret Harris; second – Betty Longley and Roger Plant.

Monday, June 17. First – Gary Williams and Tony Haworth; second – Janet Richards and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, June 20. First – Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second – Janet Richards and Ken Jenkins.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, 7pm – 10.15pm. Visitors are welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794. **TH**

Wick RFC pay tribute to inspiring Rhodri

A very difficult year for Wick RFC this season has proved to be.

Firstly, captain Dai Edbrooke was struck down with a serious illness and he continues to make good progress with his recovery and hopes to return to play next season; best of luck to him.

Then, tragically, last month came the death of Rhodri Thomas (pictured) at the young age of 23. Rhod was an inspirational character, especially off the field, and his unique personality is a huge loss to all who enjoyed his friendship.

The club would like to thank the people who made donations in lieu.



Rhodri Thomas.

The team finished a very respectable fifth in this season's SWALEC league division six south central, especially considering the off-the-field setbacks.

This season's presentation awards evening will be at a marquee at the Plough and Harrow on June 29; tickets available at around £15, call

07530 692732 for more information.

The AGM will be at the club pavilion on Thursday, July 11, at 7pm; new personnel are being sought for next season to join and help with a project to greatly improve facilities at the club.

If you would like to be part of a progressive village team then please step forward, vacant positions are: chairman, treasurer, club secretary and general committee.

Please email advance nominations to wick.rfc@facebook.com or in writing to Wick RFC, c/o The Plough and Harrow, Monknash.

Bridgend bridge club news

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, June 19: first, Tony Haworth and Robert Charlesworth; second, Dave Barwood and Jane Brook; third, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones.

Friday, June 21: first Deb Davies and John Beard; second, Peter Buggden and Alan Grant; third, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, June 20, were Barrie Jenkins, Vanessa Beecham and Francis Heslin.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm, to which all are welcome, on Thursdays (2pm–5pm), also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced, where assistance is available.

For further information contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968), John Evans (01656 880372) or David Newman (01656 649138). **DN**

Nurses' reunion at Sandville centre



Celebrating the 47th anniversary of the League of Nurses, Bridgend General Hospital, at Sandville Court. PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN.

Bridgend CC under-12s on form at Tondy

BRIDGEND Town under-12s continued their fine start to the season, winning away at local rivals Tondy at Bryn Road.

Bridgend Town batted first and reached a score of 252 (pairs format) for six wickets. The pick of the batsmen were J Hayes (10), O Lewis (10) and C Hart (9) with D Thomas bowling a fine spell for Tondy, finishing with two for six runs off his four overs.

The game was played in excellent spirit with plenty of Mid Glamorgan county representatives on both sides.

Tondy started well with I Parsons (15) hitting three fours and W Richards (14) putting on 20 for the last pair with twin brother S Richards (6).

But an accurate Bridgend bowling attack had taken wickets at reg-

ular intervals during the innings. The wickets were taken by J Hayes (3), K Metha (2), O Lewis (2), A Dalton (1) and M Padmanabhan (1).

A fine Bridgend fielding performance saw them take seven catches, three by captain O Johns.

Tondy reached a net score of 232 off their 20 overs, resulting in a Bridgend Town win by 20 runs.

At the halfway stage in the season, Bridgend Town under-12s are top of Zone D in the South Wales Junior Cricket League. Next fixture, weather permitting is a top of the table clash, home to Tata Steel on July 1 in what is always a very well-contested match.

Team: A Abbas, A Dalton, H Evans (W/k), C Hart, J Hayes, O Johns (captain), O Lewis, K Metha, M Padmanabhan, Willicombe. **M S**

THE 47th anniversary of the League of Nurses at Bridgend General Hospital, was recently held at the Sandville Self-Help Centre, Sandville Court, Ton Kenfig.

When first started by Gwyneth Poacher, the reunions were held in Quarrel Road, Bridgend, but for the last 22 years, they have been held at

the Sandville.

Gwyneth Davies and Diane Woodhouse, both 17-year-olds, started together as pre-nursing students on ward 3 under Staff Nurse Margaret Flower on the same day, April 6, 1950 in Bridgend General Hospital, Quarrel Road.

Six years later, they were to get married on the same day; June 2, 1956.

STEP OUT ON THE MACMILLAN WALK



Last year's Porthcawl summer walk launch, with members of the Bridgend and District fundraising committee

SUNDAY, July 14, will see more than 100 walkers step out for Macmillan Cancer charity in the Porthcawl Walk, starting at the Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl.

Jeff Cowland, volunteer event organiser said: "I would like to encourage everyone to join in this year's Porthcawl Walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. I believe that there are many reasons for taking part in this walk.

"Most importantly, of this, and any sponsorship money raised, whatever the amount, goes direct to the charity to enable them to continue to provide vital services to people affected by cancer in our area."

Register online at www.macmillan.org.uk/porthcawlwalk, email porthcawlwalk@macmillan.org.uk or call 0300 1000 200 for details.

Co-op shoppers give young players a boost

CO-OPERATIVE members have helped Bridgend Sports RFC to buy new rugby shirts, with a donation of £500.

The group received the cash boost from The Co-op Community Fund, in which customers opt to donate all or part of their annual dividend to good causes.

Rob Spurduty, from Bridgend Sports RFC, said: "Funding is becoming ever harder to secure; therefore, we were delighted to hear that we were successful in securing this grant from The Co-operative. The cash has made a huge difference to our group, and it means all the more knowing that the money has been donated by local people."

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Athletic awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

Sean Derrick was top try scorer with eight tries followed by James Olds with seven, Aled Thomas five and team captain Simon Mustoe and Michael Hathaway both on four. Steve Lewis with 227 points (two tries, 41 conversions, 43 penalties and two drop goals – one with last kick of the match to defeat Narbeth) was top points scorer.

Aled Thomas played in all 26 games and would have played every minute as well, but for a disagreement with the referee at Bonymaen, when his colourful use of vocabulary saw him issued with a red card – 10 minutes short of a unique record.

Griff Davies and Steve Lewis played 25 league games, with Simon Mustoe, Sean Derrick and Sean Williams all playing 22 or more.

Newcomers to the club were props Liam Griffin and Matt Muir and backs Laurence Howley and Kyle Dobbins, who all made an impact during the season.

coaches John Apsee and David Williams saw Stuart Morris and Paul Jones join their ranks. Both turned out for the team during the season when needed.

Paul Hearne was fixture secretary and team manager, while Kate Davies and Bob Lewis were the physios, and Phil Goodwin and Tony Minchinton also assisted.

The club would like to thank Paul Yardley and Kate Davies, who have retired following the season. Paul will be coaching Aberavon forwards and Kate has work commitments.

The Second XV again competed in the National Second XV league, finishing mid table after winning it the previous season. Tom Cole was top points scorer with 132 and top try scorer with seven; Gareth Davies and Ben Howe both crossed for four tries.

Tom Cole and Liam Griffiths made most appearances with 15, followed by Aled Thomas (14) and Harry Griffiths and Nick Jones with 13; the trainer was Tony Griffiths with Liam Griffiths as team manager. **AB**

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pupils' awards WELL done to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Damon Gitsham – class 1, Isabelle Anderson – class 2, Mia Thomas – class 3, Carys Orchard – class 4, Ola Kruk – class 5, Meghan Evans and Jake Thomas – class 6 and Todd Hind – class 7. The head-teacher's award went to Joshua Jones – class 5.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Emily James, Sam Flanagan, Thomas Flanagan, Bronagh O'Neil, Kelsey Williams, Mathew Leyshon, Katy Mansfield, Sonny Wood, Emmi Joy, Alex Parr, Scott Romanis and Ryan Evans.

Sports day: Many congratulations to Mynydd Tyltlyn, captained by Liam Evans and Lowri Thomas on winning the sports day last week; also to all the pupils who took part in their events and supported their team-mates when not competing.

The school also thanks parents, grandparents and helpers who volunteered to help out and supported this event.

Friends of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School thank all who supported the summer fair, whether by donating toys, games, books and cakes or by volunteering, for raising a magnificent £900. This was a fantastic effort which is greatly appreciated by the school.

Wellbeing Centre

INCLUDED in activities being held by the Mental Health Matters at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, from 1pm to 5pm on Wednesday, July 3 will be Anna Crole talking about 'Want to Work' from 1.30pm to 2.30pm; arts and crafts from 2pm to 4pm and the reading group from 3pm to 4pm.

It will be a great social afternoon when everyone is welcome to go and join in the activities and enjoy themselves in a relaxed and friendly environment.

SHOUT

ON Friday of last week, Stan Rumble from Kenfig Hill and members of Bridgend and Maesteg SHOUT Forum met First Minister Carwyn Jones at his offices in Bridgend to discuss the changes surrounding



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net



ABOVE: Fauve Birch and fellow golfer Isabelle Morris (see story below).

the Princess of Wales Hospital.

SHOUT claim that despite the current rumours, the hospital is not safe and it is therefore important that people get behind the consultation and vote for option 3, which is a five-hospital alternative.

They also discussed disabled parking and the extenuating circumstance preventing some people from collecting their badges from Bridgend County Borough Council.

The First Minister said that he would look into the interpretation of the guidelines.

SHOUT welcome visitors to their stand at the Kenfig Hill and Pyle Festival fun day on Saturday, June 29.

For further information on Kenfig Hill SHOUT, telephone Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

P&K Golf Club junior section

FAUVE BIRCH from Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club has had a very successful few months.

During March, Fauve won the Glamorgan Ladies Championship and was fifth in the British Colleges' Championship in Bath.

She also qualified to play in the Principality Welsh Open.

May was also a busy month, with Fauve the overall gross winner, with a one under par total, at the south Wales girls' Spring Cup.

She was also overall winner in the south Wales Monmouthshire girls' championship and winner of the south Wales girls' Glamorgan championship.

In the latest Golf Union of Wales rankings, Fauve is ranked 10th on the Girls Order of Merit. In July, she will be representing the Glamorgan Ladies in the

inter-county championship at Builth Wells. Well done Fauve, everyone at the club is very proud of you.

Pyle and Kenfig have a thriving junior section and are always looking to develop aspiring young golfers.

They hold a number of coaching sessions catering for all levels.

The next six week programme starts on July 1 with sessions for the boys on Monday evenings from 5pm to 6pm, and on Saturdays from 11am to 12pm.

The girls' sessions are on a Saturday morning from 10am to 11am. To register and check availability, contact either Dylan or Cennydd in the professional shop on 01656 772446.

Festival week

THE Community Festival Week opened with a concert, organised by the Pisgah Ladies Fellowship, in Pisgah Chapel last Saturday evening.

The audience were thrilled by the singing of the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir, the Crescendo Youth Choir and the Da Capo Children's Choir.

They were also entertained by Rhian Hughes, a young soprano from Maesteg, who stood in for Tony Mullins, who was unable to sing as he was suffering from a chest infection.

However, Tony was still able to compete the evening and, as usual, he had us rolling in the aisles with his wicked sense of humour.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the brilliance of the singing and started off what promises to be the best ever Festival Week in Kenfig Hill.

For further details of the week's events, ring Gina Hooper on 01656 895504 or 07752 366241.

Round-the-clock care workers are honoured



Some of the social care workers who attended the Celebration of Success' event at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

RIGHT: Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, with care workers Leah Barnfield, Kathryn Greenwood and Angela Warren, all of whom picked up certificates of achievement in BCBC's 'Celebration of Success' event.

WORKERS who help to provide around-the-clock care for vulnerable people in the county borough have been celebrated in a special event as part of Social Care Week 2013.

Dozens of social care workers from across the council and its partners received certificates of achievement in a 'Celebration of Success' at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl, a council spokesperson reports.

At any one time in the borough, 3.5 per cent of the local population will be receiving social care from BCBC and its partners in the public, private, independent and voluntary sectors.

The care can range from safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, to providing practical help with daily living tasks, to supporting people so that they can be independent.

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Our communities depend on those who work in the social care sector, from the home care worker providing personal care to the social worker who is supporting a vulnerable child."

"And let's not forget that adults and young people depend on that support at all times of the day and night, and right throughout the year."

"It's great to be able to say a big thank you to our many professional, caring and skilled workers and volunteers who are so willing to deliver this."



Why a Bridgend IT worker is walking 650 miles in 35 days!

AN IT professional from Bridgend is hoping to raise £5,000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association by walking the coastal path from north Wales to south Wales come rain, sun or snow!

Justin Hostettler-Davies will walk 650 miles in 35 days, starting in Prestatyn on July 12 and finishing at Porthcawl on August 18.

Justin is carrying out this challenge after his lifelong friend was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in October 2010 at the age of 36.

Five people a day die in the UK from MND. It is a rapidly progressive, fatal disease that can affect any adult at any time. The disease leaves people unable to walk, talk or feed themselves. The cause of MND is unknown and there is no cure.

Justin said: "I have chosen to do this in the hope that it can raise much needed awareness of Motor Neurone Disease and the devastating impact it has on people and their families."

Justin said: "My friend Gareth is an amazing father to two young children, husband, son, brother and friend. He won't get to see his children grow up, go to university or get married."

"From here on in, time is the most precious commodity they possess. As this disease has progressed over the last two years, Gareth has

become completely dependent on the care and attention of his wife and family. Everyday tasks we take for granted have been taken away from him."

Money donated will go directly to set up a new care network for MND patients across south Wales.

Justin welcomes support from anyone wishing to join him at any stage of his walk.

To donate, go to www.walk4mnd.com or <https://www.justgiving.com/walkingwales4MND>.

To follow Justin's progress, go on Twitter @WalkWales4MND or on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/m/#!/events/149808151839149/?fref=ts>.

Welsh patients left behind?

PROFESSOR Davis' letter ('Prostate Cancer: why Welsh patients have to cross the border,' The GEM, June 13) just goes to prove the old adage that we should be very careful that we wish (vote) for.

In the referendum of 1997, just over a quarter of those eligible voted for an independent Assembly for Wales.

Since then, the share of funding for health in this country has slowly but surely reduced when compared with England and, sadly, the future points to more of the same.

Our Government takes the easy option of blaming the Coalition in Westminster for its failures, rather than accepting responsibility for its decisions.

Our AMs seem more interested in maintaining the status quo, retaining their seats, their well-paid jobs and generous expenses, rather than provid-

ing dynamic forward thinking leadership. To add insult to injury, our AMs seek tax-raising powers to get yet more control of our hard-earned cash, while denying hospitals millions of pounds of income from car parking fees – to squander further millions on vote-catching measures to provide free prescriptions and free school breakfasts to all residents, irrespective of their ability to pay – schemes that encourage inefficiency, over-use and waste.

Ponder this: had a few more members of the silent (or was it apathetic) majority chosen in 1997 to remain full members of the United Kingdom, all National Health patients in Wales would be entitled to surgery in hospitals using 21st Century technology.

Surgery that, according to Professor Davis, is only available to prostate cancer patients who can afford to pay for it.

Keith Douglas, Porthmadog.

Local children have a ball with Premier League star

A PREMIER League football star met his match at Pyle Life Centre, when local children fired questions at him during a special question and answer session.

It was kicked off by Swansea City midfielder, Leon Britton fielding questions from Swansea-based sports writer, David Brailey, before the youngsters tackled him with questions of their own.

The midfield maestro talked about his life and career in football, shared tips on what's required to get into the sport, and told the audience that the best thing about being a footballer in south Wales was the friendliness of the people.

The London-born midfielder also chatted and posed for photographs

with the children, and signed footballs and football boots they had brought along to the event.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "What a great opportunity our library service has given to children in Pyle. It's not every day that you get to meet a Premier League footballer!"

Libraries across the county borough have a range of creepy craft and spooky story activities planned to help local children complete this year's Summer Reading challenge.

A 'Creepy House' will be unveiled at Kenfig Hill and Pyle Festival Fun Day in Kenfig Hill Rugby Club on Saturday (June 29).



Leon Britton signs autographs, footballs and football boots for young fans.

Witches, fairies, and a stone that goes for a swim!

SPOOKY TALES by Hayley Williams

THE month of June comes from the Latin *Junius mensis*, which means the month of June.

It is the first month of the summer season and is a time for celebration as the weather supposedly becomes warmer.

June has a few historic events which changed the way of the world: In 1284, the Pied Piper lured 130 children away at Hamelin; in 1799, astronomer William Lassell discovered the moons of Uranus and Neptune; and in 1812, German astronomer Johann G Galle discovered the planet Neptune.

But June is probably best known for the mid-summer festival of summer solstice, which is full of intrigue from ancient rituals, traditions and legends which certainly have mystery surrounding them.

Originally, a Pagan and Christian festival celebrated between June 20-24, it was June 21 that was calculated to be the longest day and shortest night of the year.

Solstice means 'sun stands still' in Latin since the sun appears to be idle in the sky, with the whole occasion described as the 'Festival of Madness and Love' because of the power of nature's cycle of the sun and universe.

The celebration of Midsummer's Eve (the eve of John the Baptist's birthday) is an ancient event where summer plants were picked at dawn because they contained healing powers,

and bonfires were lit to ward off evil spirits.

Also called Litha and the Feast of St Peter, it marks where the sun tilts on its axis to its maximum strength.

During Neolithic times, the lunar calendar was followed and the beginning of daytime with the sun rising at dawn began as a celebration.

During the 7th Century, St Eligius forbade Christians and Pagan religions to perform summer solstice rites, dancing, leaping or chanting, as he deemed all merriment of this kind to be evil. However, the celebrations then changed to mark St John's day, and the merriment was banished.

The 13th Century monk of Winchcombe spoke of boy revellers who would collect bones and other rubbish to burn on bonfires to drive away dragons, which were thought to poison springs and wells.

During the 15th Century, people celebrated midsummer by visiting places of worship equip with candles to pray all night long.

But this changed dramatically when feasting, singing, dancing and pure lechery took over, thus turning holy devotion into sin.

Around 1498, the performing of plays with costume clothing and colourful parades had become popular customs until they too were banned in 1675.

Today, the prehistoric monument of Stonehenge is the most popular location most associated with witnessing the summer solstice where people gather to observe dawn arriving.

The volcanic blue-stones are thought to have originated from Wales, 160 miles away from the ancient landmark.

It is not known how they were transported such a long distance by hand, but the eeriness of their existence is still captivating and full of intrigue.

In Wales, the summer solstice is called *Gwyl Ifan* or *Gwyl Ifan Ganol Haf*, which is the feast of St John the Evangelist.

The occasion included agricultural fairs, dancing and banqueting.

Bonfires were also lit to ward off evil spirits with folk dances performed around them. These celebratory rituals died out during the 19th Century.

Legendary practices were performed during ancient times where fires lit on the hillside were very popular, and crea-

tures of the land were blessed with fire.

They were not used as sacrifices, but were guided through the fire in a sun-wise direction as gestures of good luck.

The date was also marked as the veil between the earth and the world beyond at its thinnest, and that powerful entities would enter our atmosphere.

Vigils would be held on the night of June 20, as a focus on driving away these demons.

The sacred site of the vigil was believed to give positive powers to all who think pure thoughts.

Those who failed in this quest became utterly mad, dead or spirited away be the fairies.

Wheels of fire were rolled down the hillside to represent the sun's power, and witches were believed to meet with phantoms at dawn on June 21 to cast their evil magic across the land.

Another practice involved placing fresh flowers under pillows to signify important and pleasant dreams, particularly of love.

Flowers and herbs were also hung on doors and windows and placed with the ashes from the simmering bonfires onto the hearth for protection against evil.

With witches dispatching their spells of evil, and fairies kidnapping the weak, could the summer solstice hide a multitude of customs now buried in our past?

At midnight on Midsummer's Eve, the strange sight of a shapely stone seems to dive into the sea and go for a swim, particularly around the coastline of Porthcawl...

Could this be the same stone that is said to go for a drink around the time of New Year, or just a fable of folklore talked about by our ancestors?

Bridges throughout the land are no stranger to the fairy population, who come out in force on the eve of the summer solstice.

If they are not acknowledged by anyone crossing a bridge, the fairy folk have no hesitation in making their presence felt.

But could these be tales of fantasy, passed down through the depths of time?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide ...

DID YOU KNOW
you can read your
GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Pupils in a 'Battle of the Bookworms'



Kai and Georgina show off their winners' shield and prizes with Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Ross Thomas and Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas.

LOCAL school children have taken part in a 'Battle of the Bookworms' to win a quiz competition.

Year six pupils Georgina Andersson and Kai Williams formed Nottage Primary School's winning team at Porthcawl and Maesteg libraries annual 'Champions Book Quiz', held at Y Llynfi, Maesteg Sports Centre.

They answered the most questions correctly to overcome rival competitors from the Llangynwyd, Nantyllyon and Newton primary schools.

All of the pupils earned their places at the 'Champions Book Quiz' after successfully taking part in Bridgend Library and Information

Service's 'World Book Day quiz', which tested their knowledge on a particular book that they had read.

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "All of the children did exceptionally well to get to the Champions Book Quiz, but a special 'well done' must go to Georgina and Kai for taking the title.

"It's great that our local libraries are making reading exciting for school children by running competitions like the Champions Book Quiz. Quizzes are a fun way of encouraging children to read, and learning how to retain information will be really beneficial for when they encounter exams later in their school lives."

Council in line for family project award

A BRIDGEND County Borough Council project, aimed at helping local families and reducing costs to public services, has been shortlisted for the inaugural *Bevan Prize for Health and Well-being*.

A Council spokeswoman stated: "Working in partnership with ABMU Health Board, Hafan Cymru, Jobcentre Plus, South Wales Police and Probation, the Connecting Families project delivers services to vulnerable and complex families in Bridgend county who place the greatest demands on services.

"As well as offering

help and support, the service has made savings of nearly £2m since it was launched in August 2011.

"It's now in the running for the first *Bevan Prize for Health and Well-being*, a new award for a group, individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to health and well-being in their field over the past year and helped to promote the founding values of the National Health Service."

The prize will be announced at an award ceremony on July 1, at an event which coincides with the 65th anniversary of the founding of the NHS.

Russian wins speedway event



GEM photographer Glyn Evans was at the Millennium Stadium recently to capture all the excitement of the World Speedway Grand Prix Event.

Cardiff is a premier event in the world calendar and attracted 40,000 people.

Emil Sayfutdinov was the Russian winner of the speedway at the Millennium Stadium Wales June 1.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

RSPCA probes defenceless animal's 'suspicious' death

THE RSPCA is appealing for information after a badly injured and dying hamster was found in Porthcawl.

"The animal was found in New Road on Sunday June 23 at 7am. He was in a blue plastic carrier box, had sustained back

injuries, was bleeding from his back passage and unable to move. By the time the RSPCA arrived on the scene the hamster had died," said RSPCA inspector Neill Manley.

"This is a deeply upsetting and very suspicious incident. This small and defenceless creature had sustained

nasty injuries before dying and we would urge anyone with information to step forward and help us with our enquiries."

Anyone with information should contact the RSPCA inspectorate appeal line on 0300 123 8018. All calls are treated in confidence.



GEM sport

'A CLOSE-RUN THING!' – but the Lions must not rely on Lady Luck coming twice to the rescue

"It has been a damned nice <close run> thing, the nearest run thing you have seen in your life..."

WELLINGTON'S obvious relief in the wake of the coalition army's cliff-edge victory over Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815, had a sporting resonance Down Under on Saturday.

While a rugby test between the touring British & Irish Lions and Australia can hardly claim the global significance of a seismic event, almost exactly 198 years earlier near Brussels, which changed the course of history, the Iron Duke's response could equally apply to the nail-biting Battle of Brisbane, whose outcome was also literally in doubt to the very end – with the Lions narrowly triumphing 23-21.

The tourists went into this opening clash of the three-test series at the Suncorp Stadium on the back of five wins and one loss (12-14 to the Brumbies) during which they had amassed 273 points to just 68 against.

Thus confidence was high, notwithstanding a run of injuries to several key players that had disrupted planning for the main event – and had exposed an alarming lack of quality strength in depth.

Frantic long distance phone calls for reinforcements had been made to a miscellany of scattered players who were not even in the originally-named squad, with even the retired Shane Williams being hurriedly pressed into emergency service.

The result was a distinctly un-Lions-like, mix 'n' match line-up against the Brumbies, who took full advantage of the consequent disarray. The win gave the Wallaby camp (quietly locked away for weeks, keeping their cards close to their chests, while British media frenzy centred on the Lions) a timely psychological boost on the eve of the big match.

Typically, the men in gold who had not been in action together for many months, were swiftly out of the blocks, marshalled by mercurial scrum half Will Genia, and should have been six points up in as many minutes, but for two missed penalty kicks (repeated failings that would prove crucial to the eventual outcome).

In the 12th minute, however, League wing convert Israel Folau powered away for the first of two quite remarkable

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

first half tries on his international debut, only one of which was converted.

Fortunately, ice-cool full back Leigh Halfpenny had no such problems with his trusty boot, keeping the Lions in the hunt with a typically well-struck penalty.

Sandwiching Folau's two tries was a defining moment in the match when George North scored a breathtaking solo try, which legendary coach Sir Ian McGeechan later extolled as "one of the greatest in Lions' history", leaving four defenders clutching at thin air in a Jonah Lomu-like charge to the line.

Five minutes later, he almost repeated the feat, foiled only by a desperate last-ditch tackle after another powerful dash to the corner flag.

(How the Scarlets regional chiefs must regret their shortsightedness in selling off their prize asset to English rivals Northampton Saints, who are surely rubbing their hands in glee at their good fortune in securing such a world class crowd-puller, for what may yet prove a bargain basement fee).

PENDULUM SWINGS

With the pack now asserting themselves at the set-piece, buttressed by rock solid tight head Adam Jones, the pendulum edged their way, yielding another penalty award – which Halfpenny for once misused, the Lions clinging to a narrow 13-12 lead at halftime.

Eight minutes after the changeover, Alex Cuthbert suddenly appeared from the right wing to break through the defence for a superbly-worked try near the posts, converted by Halfpenny; but two rapid Wallaby penalties reduced the arrears to 20-18, before the impeccable Welsh full-back's boot widened the gap – only for the Lions to be penalised again!

This brought the score to 23-21 in the touring side's favour and the nerves were beginning to show as the 80th minute approached.

A gripping, though less than classic, see-saw contest that had been marked by mounting Australian casualties

(which saw a flank forward moved into the centre) and confusing decisions at the breakdown by the New Zealand referee, Chris Pollock, had a truly dramatic climax in store. Replacement outside half Kurtley Beale, who had already fluffed one penalty attempt, had a last-gasp chance to snatch victory out of the fire for Australia, when the Lions were penalised almost on the stroke of full time.

Incredibly, his foot slipped in the run-up and the final whistle immediately sounded to give the Lions a close-run victory, that head coach Warren Gatland – echoing Wellington – admitted was "very close... it could easily have gone either way".

He and his assistant coaches know that ultimately they had Lady Luck to thank, and a marked step-up in performance will be needed in the second test at the Etihad stadium in Melbourne on Saturday, if they are to claim an historic series victory.

There were some alarming shortcomings in evidence, particularly up front in the second half, after Lions' substitutions, including the departure of lynchpin Adam Jones, saw a dramatic weakening of the previously solid scrum.

They aimed to reassert this in the game against the Melbourne Rebels (led by Wales' other forgotten man, Gareth Delve) on Tuesday in the last regional outing and lay down a marker before going for glory in the crunch test.

In the event, the Lions ran out comfortable five-try winners by 35-0 and with injury scares continuing, some of those players, including match skipper Dan Lydiate, Toby Faletau and Ian Evans, were hoping to stake a last-ditch claim for a place in the test 23.

They will be nervously awaiting today's announcement of the team, which had been delayed as the Lions' camp, already reeling from the latest loss of second row enforcer Paul O'Connell, waited to see if loosehead prop Alex Corbisiero and centre Jamie Roberts had fully recovered from injury, before clearing the decks for the big showdown on Saturday.

For the wounded Wallabies, of course, it is make or break, if they are to level the series.

In contrast, the British & Irish Lions know that one huge Herculean heave will suffice for them to make history and render the third and final test an irrelevance.

As the late, great Irish comedian Frank Carson might have said: "It's going to be a cracker!"

Athletic players line up for awards...

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC held its 40th annual player of the year presentation night in the clubhouse on Friday, June 14.

Guests were Ian Stephens and Alan Bateman. Ian Stephens captained Bridgend during their golden years, gained 14 Welsh caps and went on two Lions tours – to South Africa and New Zealand.

Alan Bateman was a dual code international playing in Wales for Maesteg and Neath. He had 35 Welsh union caps, 13 Welsh rugby league caps and two British Isles league caps. He is also one of a few Welsh players with a Heineken Cup winner's medal, gained with Northampton Saints. Ian and Alan presented the awards



Club caps (left to right): Liam Griffiths, David Williams, Lee Grabham, Tony Griffiths and Ian Holman. PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

and also both spoke very well during the evening.

The player of the year was won by back row forward Sean Derrick, with the best back award going to scrum half Aled Thomas; most promising player went to full back James Olds.

Second team player of year was won by lock or back row forward

Harry Griffiths, with outside half Tom Cole voted best second XV back; the captain's awards went to Simon Mustoe – First XV and Tom Cole – Second XV. Club trustee and committee man David Davison was awarded life membership of the club for his excellent work throughout most of the club's 40 year history.

The club also awarded club caps to five former or current players who have made over 300 club appearances and are still active in coaching either senior or junior sides. They were Liam Griffiths, Tony Griffiths, Lee Grabham, Ian Holman and David Williams. Flowers were presented to retiring physiotherapist Kate Davies

and club stewardess Jan Jenkins.

Club chairman Terry Coles reviewed the season in which the First XV competed in the inaugural Championship season and acquitted themselves very well against teams that were household names when the Athletic was still in junior union – teams such as Ebbw Vale,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Simon Mustoe – club captain, 2nd XV player of the year Harry Griffiths, 1st XV best back Aled Thomas, 2nd XV best back Tom Cole, and 1st XV player of the year Sean Derrick

Newbridge and Pontypool.

The Athletic did the double over Pontypool and also defeated Newbridge away; other very good victories came against Cardiff Metropolitan, Narbeth, Beddau, Blackwood, Whitland and Glamorgan Wanderers.

Coach John Apsee

spoke highly of his players' commitment, finishing a commendable ninth out of 14 teams, winning 12 games and losing 14.

Sixth place was in our grasp with three games to go – but in a thrilling win against Blackwood the team suffered a major injury to centre Tom Morgan,

who broke his femur, and also full back James Olds, who suffered a broken hand. Aligned to other injuries, playing three games in seven days took its toll on a small squad and the last three games were lost.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)